

Docket No. 1948-4296US1**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A friction material designed for fitting to a device employing friction in a liquid medium, the friction material comprising

approximately 20% to 40% by weight a mat of non-woven fibres,

approximately 40% to 60% by weight a thermosetting resin which impregnates said fibres, wherein the fibres have a length of at least 12 mm, and

filler ranging by weight between a ~~nonzero percentage proximate 0%~~
approximately 1% and approximately 40%, wherein the non-woven fibres and the resin are found in specific proportions with the filler.

2. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the average length of the fibres is at most 120 mm.

3. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 2, wherein the fibres are chosen from the group consisting of glass, wool, cotton, ceramic, polyacrylonitrile, preoxidized polyacrylonitrile and aramid.

4. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 3, wherein the filler is in powder form and incorporated into the mat.

5. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 4, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber and diatoms.

6. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 4, wherein the filler is in the form of pulps and incorporated into the mat.

7. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 6, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of the pulps of glass, aramid, acrylic and phenolic fibres.

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8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is resol-based.

10. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein latex is added to the thermosetting resin.

11. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the filler is in powder form and incorporated into the thermosetting resin, and wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber and diatoms.

25. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 5, wherein the filler is in form of pulps and incorporated into the mat.

26. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin includes a polar solvent, the polar solvent being an aqueous polar solvent.

33. (Currently Amended) A friction material for a device employing friction in a liquid medium, the friction material comprising a mat of non-woven fibres impregnated with a thermosetting resin, wherein the friction material comprises by weight

approximately 20% to 40% fibres selected from the group consisting of glass, wool, cotton, ceramic, polyacrylonitrile, preoxidized polyacrylonitrile and aramid;

approximately 40% to 60% thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of water-based resins, resol-based resins, phenolic plastic resins, aminoaldehyde resins, epoxy resins and polyimide resins; and

~~a nonzero percentage proximate 0% to~~ approximately 1% to 40% filler, wherein

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the fibres and the thermosetting resin are found in specific proportions with the filler.

34. (Previously Presented) The friction material according to Claim 33 wherein the fibres have an average length of between approximately 12 mm and 120 mm.

35. (Previously Presented) The friction material according to Claim 33 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, and 60% water-based resin.

36. (Previously Presented) The friction material according to Claim 33 that is by weight approximately 30% cotton fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, and 60% water-based resin.

37. (Previously Presented) The friction material according to Claim 33, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber, diatoms, glass, aramid, acrylic and phenolic fibres.

38. (Previously Presented) The friction material according to Claim 37 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, 10% carbon, 10% coke, and 40% resol-based resin.

39. (Previously Presented) The friction material according to Claim 37 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, 10% copper, 10% rockwool, and 40% resol-based resin.